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How can Theseus summon his troops to assemble, when he is leading his host back from a victorious campaign (ll. 15, 16)? Was not the military ceremony of unfurling the royal ensign a declaration of war? In Pandemonium, Satan's standard is unfurled before an already assembled host (l. 522 f.) with the fanfare of fiendish trumpets. The incident inspires one of the most gorgeous purple patches in all Milton.

"Then straight commands that at the warlike sound
Of trumpets loud and clarions be uprear'd
His mighty standard; that proud honour claim'd
Azazel as his right, a cherub tall;
Who forthwith from the glittering staff unfurled
Th'imperial ensign, which full high advanc'd
Shon like a meteor streaming to the wind,
With gems and golden lustre rich imblaz'd,
Seraphic arms and trophies; all the while
Sonorous metal blowing martial sounds."

Paradise Lost, i, ll. 531-540.

"The rede statue of Mars with spere and targe
So shyneth in his whyte banner large,
That all the feeldes gliteren up and down."

K. F., ll. 117-119.

Mr. Skeat considers "feeldes" to be the "heraldic term for the ground upon which the various charges, as they are called, are emblazoned." P. 172. I venture to think this mistaken. Chaucer has a strong sense of color, and in this case, he wishes to impress us with the magnificence of Duke Theseus' broad banner, which, with its brilliant crimson and white, lights up the whole landscape, the peaceful fields alongside the highway. To say that the red figure of Mars merely brightens the rest of the flag seems to me tame and unimaginative.

ARCHIBALD MACMECHAN.

Dalhousie College, Halifax, N. S.

THE PHONETIC SECTION.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES.

SIRS:—All persons interested either in general phonetics or in the special subject of American pronunciation, are invited to help on the work of the Section by sending a dollar to the Secretary. Anyone can become a member on payment of this sum.

To the gentlemen who still have copies of the fourth circular, the Secretary would suggest that they send in their answers as soon as possible. The results have not yet been tabulated.

C. H. GRANDGENT, Sec'y.
Cambridge, Mass.

BRIEF MENTION.

The latest addition to the "Romans choisis" of W. R. Jenkins (Boston: Schœnhof) is Henri de Bornier's 'la Lizardière.' The author is already known to the American public by his play 'la Fille de Roland,' some time since selected as one of the publications in Jenkins' 'Théâtre contemporain.' His novel is one of contemporary life and manners in the higher sense, and cannot fail to win many readers.

Ginn & Co. have published in their "International Modern Language Series" the charming little French comedy, 'la Cigale chez les Fourmis.' Prof. Van Daell has given it and its authors, Legouvé and Labiche, a short preface, and has added the few notes required for class work.

PERSONAL.

Adolph Rambeau, Ph.D., has been appointed Associate in Romance Languages in the Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Rambeau's Gymnasium training was received at Wittenberg (Germany); he took the doctor's degree (1877) in Romance Languages at the University of Marburg, when he presented a thesis entitled, "Ueber die als Echt nachweisbaren Assonanzen des Oxforder Textes der Chanson de Roland." For several years past he has been Professor in the Wilhelm Gymnasium of Hamburg, during which time he was a frequent contributor to the columns of the *Zeitschrift für französische Sprache und Litteratur*, the *Phonetische Studien*, etc.

Dr. Hermann Schönfeld, of the Johns Hopkins University, has in preparation a German and a French Historical Reader. The material for these works will be arranged chronologically, and covers the historical development of the German and French peoples from the earliest times down to the present; the characteristic periods of history being drawn from the best German and French historians.

Alexander W. Herdler has been appointed Instructor for French and German in the Scientific Department of Princeton College. Mr. Herdler is a graduate (1884) of the State Normal College of Prague, where he afterward attended lectures at the university for two years. Since 1889 he had been teaching in various schools of New York state, whence he passed to his present position; he has published in the *Teacher* the following articles: "How to teach Modern Languages;" "What is Philosophical Pedagogy;" "The Psychology of Lotze and Herbart."

OBITUARY.

EDUARD MAETZNER.

The death of this distinguished scholar and teacher on July 13th (1892) marked the end of